

**Central Valley Fish Facilities Review Team
Draft Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2000
Federal Center Conference Room, Sacramento**

Participants: John Andrew*, Bill O'Leary, Ryan Olah, Ron Ott, Jim Buell, Rick Wantuck, Darryl Hayes, George Heise, Randy Beckwith, Ted Frink, Marianne Hallet, Burt Bundy, Stacy Cepetto, Geir Aasen, and Bob Fujimura.
* Co-chairman

Past Meeting Minutes

There were no corrections offered on the previous meeting minutes. No comments were received prior to this meeting.

Central Delta Intakes Option

Ron Ott provided background information on CALFED's interest in evaluating the use of multiple screened diversions in the central Delta. There was much discussion and speculation on the specific design of this option. CALFED has invited the CVFFRT members to a special joint meeting with the Water Management Coordination Team to discuss this proposal the following day, February 24, at the Resources Building. Summary handouts were circulated to the team. Apparently our team has been tasked by CALFED to provide technical review on this proposal by mid-March.

Formation of an Interagency Screen Evaluation Team

Rick Wantuck explained his interest in providing a means for the long-term evaluation and monitoring of operation and maintenance of new fish screens. With the high capital investment for these projects, there is a need to track their operations beyond the first few years of operation due to O&M concerns. New projects generally have some type of annual reporting requirements as part of their permits, but compliance is rare. Generally, other western states use state-funded staff to monitor and/or maintain fish screens. One suggestion was to fund more DFG regional fish shops, although the funding source was not identified. Another suggestion was to evaluate a representative subsample of long-running sump well (?) pumps to obtain reliability information. CALFED is interested in biological and engineering evaluation of new screened diversions. NMFS is not interested in entrainment monitoring, although there is some support as a part of an integrated monitoring program.

SB 1086 Program

Burt Bundy, the Project Coordinator, explained the history and purpose of the SB 1086 program. Funded in 1986, the program created a management plan for the improvement of fishery and riparian habitats along the Sacramento River. This management area, the Sacramento River Conservation Area (SRCA), covers land along the Sacramento River from Keswick to Verona and is divided into four management regions. Copies of the draft SRCA Plan were circulated and future goals of the program were discussed.

Stacy Cepello (DWR) described the SRCA GIS database and its applications. Stacy showed several GIS maps and the Sacramento River visual base map atlas. There are several data layers available; fish spawning areas, geomorphological information, streambank vegetation maps, and flood levee locations are the most notable. They have DFG water diversion survey data, although they have not integrated this information into the database yet. Maps showing the future river meanderbelt and the 50 year erosion projections would be most useful for locating permanent fish screens. Locations where gravel sediments are located behind levees would be help to site well pumps. GIS atlas will be viewable through the SRCA web site [www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov] and maps will be downloadable as PDF files. Methods of greater coordination of fish screen projects and setback levee projects were discussed. The apparent conflict between Boeger Farm Fish Screen and possible setback levee plans were briefly discussed.

CALFED Science Conference

John Andrew and Dan Odenweller are co-chairing a Fish Facility Session at the CALFED Science Conference. There will be a call for papers on March 1. They want formal research project presentations with data results. They hope to present four to six papers in a half-day session.

Fish Screening Project Web Site

The test web site had been available for several weeks now. The team was encouraged to review and provide comments. DWR was interested in receiving updates on the AFSP and NRCS projects and several historical narratives on fish screening implementation. Many suggestions for improving the web site were provided. It was suggested that the team identify the top ten fish screening references and include them in the web page if possible. The web site will be continued to be labeled as under construction for now.

Horseshoe Bend Release Site

John Andrew discussed the options for responding to DWR's Horseshoe Bend fish release site being out of commission. Three options were posed; replace the release system using the same design, redesign the system and perhaps its location, or reevaluate both DWR and USBR release sites, current and new release technology and their overall use in the Delta. The group supported delaying DWR's plans to immediately replace the release pipe at Horseshoe Bend and allow a subteam to investigate these options. It was pointed out this plan was contingent to obtaining permission to share USBR's Horseshoe Bend release facility long-term (> six weeks).

Portable Fish Screens

As part of DWR Morro Island screen project, John Andrew mentioned that it would be desirable to develop "portable" fish screens that could be easily installed or removed for diversions in the 5 to 10 cfs range. There may be existing small portable screens (1 cfs) that the DFG Region 1 fish screen shops have built. Due to problems with one previous screen design, it was recommended that the team defines what is a "portable" screen.

Updates:

There was little comment on the screen velocity error measurement paper. Darryl Hayes briefly reported on the Tracy TFTF value engineering study and mentioned that suggestions obtained

may reduce the construction costs by up to 15 million dollars. Anyone wishing an advance copy of the VE report should contact Darryl directly.

Southern Energy's proposal to use the Gunderboom screen may have received USFWS support for a fast-track experimental permit. There was discussion on whether using 3/32" openings was appropriate given that a smaller pore size is possible and could offer more protection to fish eggs and larvae. This "mesh" opening size may not be considered best available technology (BAT) under NPDS definition. NMFS staff suggested that an experimental prototype designation may trigger the parallel development of a conventional positive screen system under current NMFS guidelines and would require a "robust" field evaluation program. There is concern on the "ratcheting" effect of new technology on efforts to screen diversions in the Delta.

USFWS will permit the retrofitting of DWR's Sherman Island diversions. Release of DWR's small diversion screening white paper has delayed allowing for more review of new literature. A draft will be circulated for review sometime in March.

UC Davis researchers met with USBR staff in Denver to discuss coordinating research at both facilities involving the TFTF. A joint research proposal will be presented at the March 7 TTAT meeting. There is growing feeling that research at the two hydraulic labs will be more important to the development of plans to the 2,500 cfs module than the TFTF.

The City of Sacramento's intake screen requires modification for the delta smelt approach velocity. Since the intake is outside of the critical habitat, there is a question concerning who should pay for the additional delta smelt protection since AFSP funds may not be appropriate. The team felt that this issue should be elevated to the Coordinators since it is a generic problem in other projects. USBR representative was concerned that examining this issue may delay the screen funding schedule.

Ted Frink passed out information on his Fish Barrier Removal Program. His new business phone number is (916) 327-1757.

NMFS staff met with the operators of the Sutter-Mutual diversion and the meeting resulted in the company requesting enrollment into the AFSP program. Screening this diversion is the highest priority for NMFS.

The next meeting has been changed to Friday morning March 29 at the CalNev AFS meeting in Ventura, CA. The longest CVFFRT meeting without a break adjourned for the remainder of the day.

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